

# Part of Ransom Cash for Castro Is Expected to Come From CIA

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Nobody will say so out loud, but every indication yesterday was that the U. S. Government will pay part of the cost of ransoming the prisoners captured in the Bay of Pigs fiasco.

Officially, the Government's position is that the ransom operation is a private affair being conducted by the Cuban Families Committee for Liberation. That is the refugee group that sent New York attorney (and Democratic senatorial nominee) James B. Donovan to Havana to negotiate a deal with Premier Fidel Castro.

It is conceded that Donovan keeps the Government informed of what he has been doing, and that President Kennedy is kept informed. About all that has been said out loud was a State Department spokesman's remark that the Department takes a "sympathetic attitude" toward the Donovan mission.

However, several high offi-

cials who were asked directly about the Government's role uniformly avoided a denial that some of the taxpayers' money is involved. And they were persons who would know beyond a doubt.

The total amount of money involved, officials say, is far less than the 62-million-dollar price first asked by Castro for the release of the 1113 men now in Cuban jails. But nobody wants to name another figure.

(One, unconfirmed report carried by news services yesterday was that the Government had agreed to underwrite the shipment of about \$13 million in food and medicine to Cuba if the prisoners were freed.)

Donovan himself is known to have hoped to swing the deal almost entirely with medicines and medical supplies. And officials here say these supplies are in such abundance that they can be had at very low prices. Food is expected to make up the rest of the deal.

Officials flatly deny reports that up to \$17 million in cash has been deposited in Canadian banks as part of the deal. They contend they would be surprised if cash were involved.

As to where the money would be found in the Federal budget, the general view in Washington is that it will come from the Central Intelligence Agency. The CIA budget is known to only a handful. Part of the ransom money has been raised from private funds, but no figures have ever been made public.

Beyond the money question is the matter of policy. Most politicians have been keeping quiet, though Rep. William C. Cramer (R-Fla.) did object to the deal, saying: "How two-faced can our foreign objectives be?"

Once the deal comes off, however, Administration offi-

cials expect some political blasts. They are resigned to the view that instead of taking the Cuban issue out of the election campaign, the deal probably will enhance it as an issue.

Nothing is being said publicly about the President's role, though he was an active participant in the earlier unsuccessful attempt to ransom the prisoners by offering tractors to Castro. It is known, however, that he very much wants to save the men, in part because it was he who gave the go signal to the venture at the Bay of Pigs in April, 1961.

While those Cuban refugees with relatives among the Bay of Pigs prisoners have pushed

hard to save them, other refugee groups have opposed the deal. They point to other Cubans in Castro's prisons who will not be affected, many of them persons who were picked up by Castro at the time of the invasion fiasco.

A sample of this latter attitude came yesterday from Ernesto Betancourt, a former Washington representative of the 26th of July Movement who broke with Castro nearly two years ago.

Betancourt said the negotiations "constitute an act of appeasement that makes Mr. Chamberlain's behavior at Munich look courageous." He predicted that "Castro will present this act to the Cuban people as an American surrender. And rightly so."